

# SR 904, Cheney to Four Lakes

## Project News

April 2003      Issue 1

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is aware of the need to improve capacity and safety along SR 904 from Cheney to Four Lakes. Along with passenger vehicles and trucks moving commodities to market, this section of highway serves as a major commuter link between metropolitan Spokane and the City of Cheney, home of Eastern Washington University (EWU). For the 2002 Fall quarter, EWU had an enrollment of over 9,000 students, and employed 1,300 faculty and staff members, many of whom commute between Spokane and Cheney. This corridor also serves as an important bus route for the Spokane Transit Authority (STA).

Recent growth within the City of Cheney has also contributed to increased traffic volumes. Cheney's population has increased by 18% in the last ten years. Industrial, residential and commercial development in Cheney has expanded with the addition of Xn Technologies, Honeywell Electronics, Wilcox Farms, Northstar Manufacturing, the Orchards, Avalon, and the new 15 acre Cheney Mall to name a few.

In January of 2003 the average daily traffic (ADT) count was 16,100 vehicles. This is a significant increase from the 12,000 vehicles per day recorded in the year 2000.

The existing two-lane highway shares a mix of conflicting traffic movements during the peak hours. Commuter traffic is mixed with both STA and school buses that stop at many locations along the corridor in addition to left turning vehicles at intersections.

Currently, WSDOT is involved in three cooperative efforts to identify both long-term and short-term solutions to this corridor. For more details please see the following articles.

## In Honor

SR 904 has recently been renamed in honor of the late Columbia shuttle astronaut from Cheney, Michael P. Anderson. Dedication of the highway will be this spring. Follow our webpage for specific date and time.

November 21st's Open House held at Cheney's Wren Pierson Building. Guests review regional aerial maps and discuss options with department engineers and planners

EWU commuter parking lot starting to fill up at dawn



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

# Corridor Safety Projects

## SR 904 Hazard Elimination Project

The City of Cheney took the lead and applied for a Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) grant from the Federal Highway Administration. The grant was awarded and will allow for the construction of illumination and left turn lanes at Paradise Rd, Jensen Rd, Meadow Lake Rd, and Old PSH-11 intersections. A centerline rumble strip will be installed in the pavement the entire corridor length. The cost of these short term solutions is \$250,000. The funding is as follows: HES Grant contribution \$225,000, City of Cheney contribution \$5,000, EWU contribution \$10,000, and WSDOT contribution \$10,000. The majority of this work will be completed in August and September of 2003.

## Traffic Safety Commission Corridor Safety Project

The Washington State Traffic Safety Commission is currently conducting a Corridor Safety Project in this section. This project will identify short-term solutions that can be achieved through the 4 E's; Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency Services and Education. The study team is currently developing a name and logo for the corridor, along with working towards solutions to enhance safety. Similar Corridor Safety Projects in Washington State such as the "Y" Zone on highways 395/2 have been very successful. This team's early discussions include shoulder rumble strips and a no passing zone, both for the entire length of the project. These are in addition to the HES Grant solutions. Kickoff for the project is tentatively scheduled for July 2003.

E-mail your comments to : [SR904CSS@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:SR904CSS@wsdot.wa.gov)

SR 904's Corridor Safety Study team on a corridor bus tour focus on the 4 E's - Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency Services, and Education.



# Route Development Plan

## Route Development Plan

The Route Development Plan (RDP) process identifies the transportation services that will accommodate safety and capacity requirements during the next 20 years. For this section of highway we are evaluating added capacity by the construction of additional lanes and intersection improvements. This project is estimated to save \$500,000 annually in safety benefits, plus annual travel time savings of 470,000 hours worth \$6 million. Preliminary estimates indicate that these improvements can be constructed for under \$25 million.

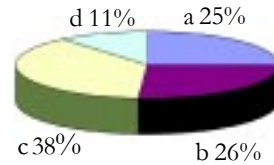
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# Survey

During November and December of 2002, we asked you to tell us about this highway. Almost 450 people responded to our survey by drop box, mail, internet and fax. Here is what they said...

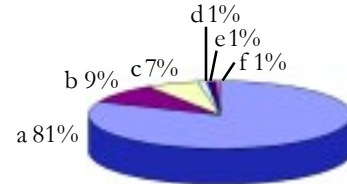
1. How often do you drive this portion of Highway 904?

- a.) At least twice daily M-F
- b.) 4 to 5 times/week
- c.) 1 to 3 times/week
- d.) Other



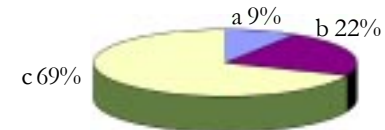
2. How do you travel/commute most often?

- a.) Personal vehicle
- b.) Mass transit
- c.) Carpool
- d.) Commercial
- e.) Bicycle
- f.) Other

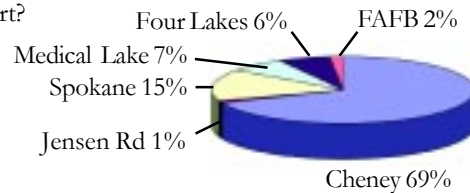


3. When do you typically most often drive this road?

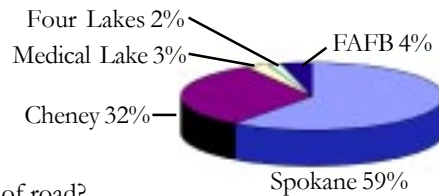
- a.) \_\_\_\_ am
- b.) \_\_\_\_ pm
- c.) equally am & pm



4. Where does your drive most commonly start?

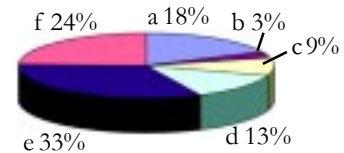


5. Where do you normally drive to?



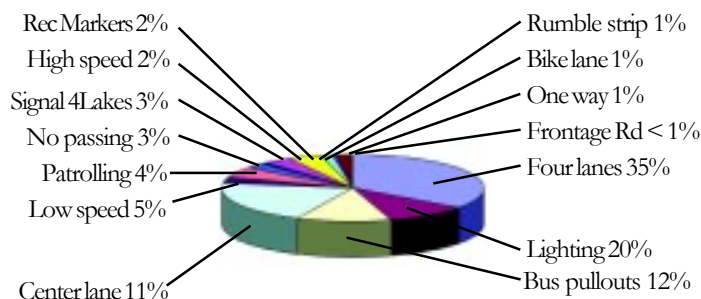
6. What is your purpose for driving this portion of road?

- a.) EWU student
- b.) Spokane student
- c.) Cheney Employee
- d.) Spokane Employee
- e.) Shopping
- f.) Other



7. What are your suggestions to improve safety and capacity in this area? What would like to see added or changed?

(ie. Left turn lanes, additional through lanes, grass median, two way left turn lane, bus turnouts, added street lamps, higher or lower posted speed limits, etc.)



# Other News

## Surveying



Department survey crews have been using state of the art surveying technologies including Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) systems and Robotic Total Stations along the highway to gather topographic information during the past few weeks.

## EWU visits WSDOT

Eastern Washington University Planning Department's Professional Practices class visited the Washington State Department of Transportation's Regional Headquarters in October of 2002.



WSDOT personnel field some thought provoking student comments.



Students examine another highway's models as engineers review and compare that highway project to highway 904.

## Construction

Construction this summer on Interstate 90 will involve grinding existing lanes and inlaying new asphalt pavement from Salnave Road Interchange (SR 902 at Exit 264) to the vicinity of Geiger Road Interchange (west of Exit 276). The Four Lakes Interchange will also be getting new illumination, the ramps will be fog sealed, and the west bound loop ramp (to Seattle) will be resurfaced.

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**Title VI Statement to Public**

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**Questions or Comments**

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We're on the Web: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/regions/eastern/projects/SR904CheneytoFourLakes/>



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